



Precedent of the Election Committee

Allegation 1920-05

Relevant Constitutional Sections:

Article XV, Section 1(e): Petitioning and campaigning may be held only over a period specified by the Election Committee. *(2):* Campaigning consists of any public contact for the solicitation of votes. Personal appearances, placement of posters, or distribution of any election materials shall be considered campaigning.

Relevant Facts:

The alleged party, a member of a Student President/Vice-President ticket, posted a picture on their personal Instagram story encouraging viewers to vote for their ticket after a restriction on campaigning had been announced by the Election Committee. 162 people had viewed the story by the time of the hearing.

Holdings:

1. A candidate who posts on their personal Instagram story encouraging viewers to vote for them is campaigning under Article 15.1(e)(2).
 - a. Article 15.1(e)(2) defines “campaigning” as any public contact for the solicitation of votes.” In this case, posting on a personal Instagram story that can be seen by voters constituted campaigning. The alleged party had been sanctioned with a ban on campaigning, and so this act of campaigning violated the past sanction.

Sanctioning

1. The Committee imposed the following sanction: 26 votes were docked from the alleged party’s ticket.
 - a. The Council created a formula in order to determine the amount of votes it would be appropriate to dock from the alleged party. At the time of the hearing, 162 people had viewed the Instagram story. After subtracting by 2 to account for the alleged party and the one member

of the Council who had seen the post, the Council divided the total number of confirmed Notre Dame students following the account by the total number of followers of the account and multiplied that quotient by the adjusted number of the story's views. This rounded up to 26 votes.